



Office of the Chicago City  
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City Council Document Tracking Sheet

**Meeting Date:** 4/18/2012  
**Sponsor(s):** Burke, Edward M. (14)  
**Type:** Resolution  
**Title:** Declaration of May 11, 2012 as "Croatian American Day' in Chicago  
**Committee(s) Assignment:**

## RESOLUTION

Whereas, People of Croatian descent have played an important role in the ethnic diversity of the City of Chicago and its surrounding areas throughout the history of the City; and

Whereas, The earliest record of a significant group of Croatian people immigrating to the shores of Lake Michigan date back to the 1870's; and

Whereas, The Croatians of Chicagoland area have played a pivotal role in preserving Croatian heritage throughout the Diaspora, including publishing *Hrvatska Zora* in 1892, the first Croatian language newspaper, performing Croatian folk music during the *Chicago World's Fair* in 1893 - the very fair which was lit up with the innovations by Croatian-born Nikola Tesla, as well as establishing several Croatian Catholic parishes by the early 1900s - four of which remain active to this day; and

Whereas, A surge in Croatian immigration to the Chicago area began after World War II, when Soviet-style communism gripped all of Eastern and most of Central Europe, including Croatia; and

Whereas, It is estimated that over 400,000 people of Croatian descent live in Illinois and more than 150,000 in the Chicagoland area; and

Whereas, These outstanding citizens of Chicago have contributed much to its growth and greatness since they had settled here long ago; and

Whereas, They have demonstrated their ability to maintain great family traditions and have presented this City with many leaders, including former Chicago Mayor and Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Michael Anthony Bilandic, former Circuit Court of Cook County Judge Nicholas Matkovic, Cook County Circuit Court Judge Marcia Maras, former Representative in the Illinois House Robert M. Terzich, political consultant Mary Matalin, television anchor Bill Kurtis, and other media personalities like John Jurkovich and Bill Rancic, reknown sculptors Ivan Meštrović and Pavao Kufrin, football greats David Diehl and Chris Zorich, basketball stars Toni Kukoč, Dalibor Bagarić and George Mikan; and

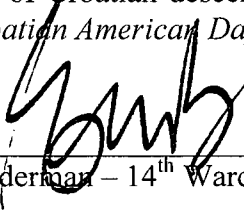
Whereas, This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the United States of America and the Republic of Croatia, a reliant U.S. and NATO Ally and upcoming 28<sup>th</sup> Member State of the European Union; and

Whereas, The Croatian Americans of Chicago have long desired to further augment the ties between their new home, the City of Chicago, and their native homeland by offering a Sister City in Croatia in order to strengthen historic, cultural, business, educational, athletic and many other common ties between the two peoples; and

Whereas, The Croatian residents of Chicago will commemorate and celebrate their long and rich history in the Chicagoland area during Croatian American Day on May 11, 2012 at the Richard J. Daley Plaza; now therefore,

BE IT KNOWN, That the members of the Chicago City Council hereby support the long-standing and beneficial goal of the Croatian Americans of Chicago to establish a Sister City in Croatia; and

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and the members of the Chicago City Council, assembled this eighteenth day of April, 2012, do hereby recognize the significant contributions of citizens of Croatian descent and officially declare that May 11, 2012, shall be recognized as *Croatian American Day* throughout the City of Chicago.



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Alderman - 14<sup>th</sup> Ward